QC judge junks Kuratong case vs Lacson, 33 others

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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RAMPAGE IN AYALA

SUDDENLY, the Central Business District turns into a battleground as anti-riot police use water cannons and tear gas to disperse about 10,000 pro-Estrada protesters.

Police say Erap supporters were testing the waters for possible coup

By Margaux Ortiz, Metro and Christian V. Esguerra

THEY came shouting slogans, but when reporters asked them what it was they were marching in the streets for, they kept quiet or pointed to one another.

In a massive show of force, anti-administration protesters estimated at 10,000 to 20,000, many of them identified with deposed President Joseph Estrada, marched on the center of the country's main business district yesterday, demanding the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

But at around 5:40 p.m., Makati City riot police dispersed the protesters on Ayala Avenue with water cannons and tear gas—bringing the rally in the heart of the financial district to a sudden and violent end.

Protesters fled as the police advanced toward them outside the Greenbelt shopping complex.

"This is a civil disturbance matter," National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said. "They were given a permit to demonstrate until 5 p.m. After that, the police asked them to peacefully disperse because of rush-hour traffic in the financial district."

RAMPAGE A3

GMA seeks peace

Reconciliation with Erap, Danding, Marcoses

By Juliet Javellana

COME together.

The President yesterday sought anew to unite the nation, by launching an ambitious program of "total reconciliation" with all anti-government or opposition forces in the country.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said she wanted, by 2004 and "beyond," to mend fences with the Marcos family, deposed President Joseph Estrada, business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, putschist elements of the military and opposition personalities.

Her plan, which she introduced at the 22nd National Prayer Breakfast at the Manila Hotel, includes the setting up of a Truth Commission to bring closure to the Marcos human rights and ill-gotten wealth cases.

She asked Archbishop Fernando Capalla, incoming president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, and Jesuit provincial superior Romeo Intengan to serve as her "negotiators" with the various groups.

GMA A4



TOTAL reconciliation with all the anti-government forces that continue to divide the nation is a vision President Macapagal introduces on Wednesday during the 22nd National Prayer Breakfast also attended by Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Erap spurns offer; Imee welcomes it

By Armand Nocum, Carlito Pablo and Blanche S. Rivera

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday extended her hand to groups opposing her government, but it was spurned by some and welcomed by others.

In a telephone interview from Camp Capinpin, deposed President Joseph Estrada effectively rejected the offer: "No reconciliation can take place unless they set things right with the issue of impeachment against (Chief Justice Hilario) Davide. I will not be a party to a reconciliation unless they make it possible for me and Davide to take a lie detector test to show who among us robbed the people blind. I wonder why he was not impeached, why he did not want to be investigated while I who submitted myself to investigation was impeached."

But Rep. Imee Marcos (KBL, Ilocos Norte), daughter of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, welcomed the offer on behalf of her family.

"My family also wants closure," Marcos said over the phone.

Marcos, who turned 48 yesterday, also joked that the President's gesture, "if it is indeed a heartfelt offer, is a good birthday gift to me."

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson also welcomed Ms Macapagal's offer, but immediately issued a challenge. Lacson said Ms Macapagal could start her reconciliation effort by putting a closure to the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case, despite its provisional dismissal yesterday. (Story on Page A7.)

"If there is a call for reconciliation and the call for reconciliation is sincere ... they could start it with the Kuratong Baleleng," Lacson, who is a principal accused in the sensational multiple murder case, told the Inquirer.

One of the two religious leaders whom Ms Macapagal had asked to serve as "negotiators" in the reconciliation effort, Jesuit provincial superior Romeo Intengan acknowl-

ERAP A4

12 bullets 'devastated' Villaruel

By Christine O. Avendaño, Christian Esguerra and Juliet Javellana

A TOTAL of 12 bullets killed Panfilo Villaruel during last Saturday's siege on the airport control tower, police officials told a Senate hearing yesterday.

Four more bullets were pumped into Villaruel's aide, Lt. Ricardo Catchillar, moving some senators, including Senate President Franklin Drilon, to assail authorities for their "excessive use of force."

Senators were equally angered and surprised by the admission of police authorities that they had skipped normal standing operating procedures such as conducting paraffin tests on the members of the assault team as well as ballistic tests on the firearms used by the team.

Three Senate committees began yesterday its inquiry on the Nov. 8 takeover of the control tower of the Manila International Airport by Villaruel by determining whether the assault against Villaruel and Catchillar was done with the use of excessive force.

The inquiry began with Sen.

12 BULLETS A4



Bellosillo goes out laughing

SUPREME Court Justice Josue Bellosillo did not spare his colleagues in the tribunal, including Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., from some good-natured jokes during a retirement gathering for him last Tuesday.

Bellosillo, who officially retires today on his 70th birthday, said he has learned many "lessons" during his 11-year stint at the court as an associate justice.

BELLOSILLO A4

New AFP force to defend Metro vs terror, Reds, not to fight coups—GMA

NOT for coup plotters but for terrorists and communists. President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said to explain the military revival of the 5,000-strong National Capital Regional Command to defend Metro Manila.

Ms Macapagal issued the statement as leftist groups expressed concern that the reactivation of the NCRC was tantamount to a declaration that Metro Manila was under a state of siege.

Ms Macapagal said the NCRC under Maj. Gen. Alberto Braganza was "not an anti-coup unit as reported but an antiterrorism and anti-insurgency command that will serve as a deterrent against threats to do harm to our community."

She commended the Armed Forces for deploying the NCRC, saying the PNP "will now have a major partner in maintaining law and order in Metro Manila."

"We expect this to engender greater stability and peace of mind among our people," Ms Macapagal said.

The NCRC, consisting of units from the Army, Navy and Air Force, will be responsible for the defense of the 17 cities and towns of Metro Manila plus several municipalities in adjacent provinces, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya said Tuesday.

"As we all know, the threat of terrorism and even insurgency is right here in Metro Manila," Abaya said.

In Zamboanga City, the spokesperson of the Southern Command said other troops

NEW FORCE A2

QC judge dismisses Kuratong case vs Lacson, 33 others

By Tina Santos, Michael Lim Ubac and Volt Contreras

FINDING no probable cause that 11 suspected bank robbers were summarily executed, Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Maria Theresa Yadao yesterday dismissed the controversial Kuratong Baleleng case against opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson and 33 other co-accused.

A beaming Lacson called Yadao's decision a triumph of justice. He told reporters that Yadao's ruling proved that the wheels of justice still turned in the country. "I hope this is the end of my Calvary because it's been a long time," he said.

But government prosecutors vowed to appeal the decision. Should Yadao find no merit in the motion for reconsideration, the prosecution could question her decision before the Supreme Court.

The multiple murder case stemmed from the alleged summary execution in May 1995 of suspected members of the Kuratong Baleleng gang, which was blamed for a series of bank robberies in Manila. Lacson and the others claimed that the victims died in a shootout on the Tandang Sora overpass in Quezon City.

Lacson headed an anti-crime task force at the time and later became the chief of the Philip-

QC A6

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FrontPage

Doctor tells Erap to lose weight and exercise

RP faces more economic woes, says Recto

By Michael Lim Ubac

Refund P6B to consumers, Lopez-run Maynilad urged

Fil-Am mom honors son killed in Iraq

WHO OWNS CYBER BAY?

SC says some P1.75B in bribes paid to secure PEA-Amari deal

By Philip C. Tubeza

6 Sinos, French held for human smuggling

MOTORING

SURVIVING IN TRANSIT

When 'pointblank' gets in between points A and B







IF YOU'RE a very important person in society, and your decisions affect a lot of people (whether they like it or not), every moment of your existence is spent exposed to a list of threats.

Techno transfer

Protection

'Loaded' with armor

Rampage in Ayala

Expect more

All-night vigil

Portable toilet

Music excluded

Newsman arrested

New AFP force to defend Metro vs terror

Concerns

Protest actions

State of siege

QC judge dismisses Kuratong case vs Lacson, 33 others

Manifest error

Ids dismissal

Prayers

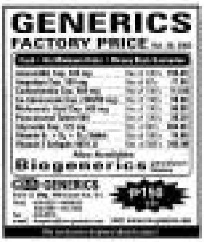
Prejudicial

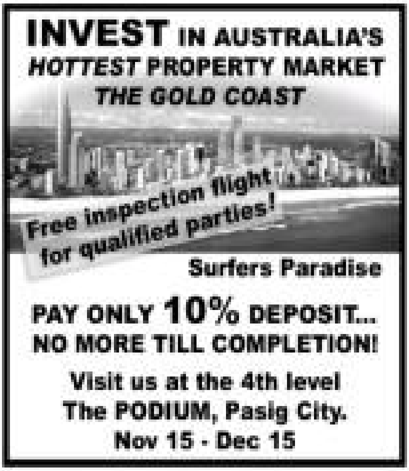
No personal knowledge

Second-hand info

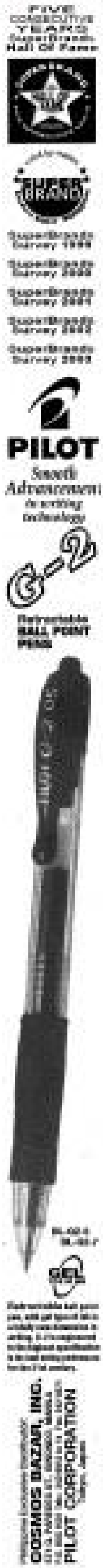
NPA kills Army sergeant, son in Samar











GMA seeks peace with Erap, Danding, insurgents

Erap spurns offer; Imee welcomes it

12 bullets killed Villaruel, 'devastated' face

Bellosillo goes out laughing

The WORLD

Explosion hits Italian police HQ in Iraq

Sri Lanka summit talks fail



A TERRIFIED Iraqi woman holds her child as soldiers of the US Army's 4th Infantry Division search their house for weapons during a pre-dawn raid in Baquba on Nov. 12.

Sanctions on Syria approved

US bishops cooperate in sex abuse study

US millionaire found innocent of murder



DURST (right) embraces one of his lawyers after his acquittal.

WORLDBRIEFS

Marriott bombing suspect goes on trial

Plan for Islamic state in Malaysia bared

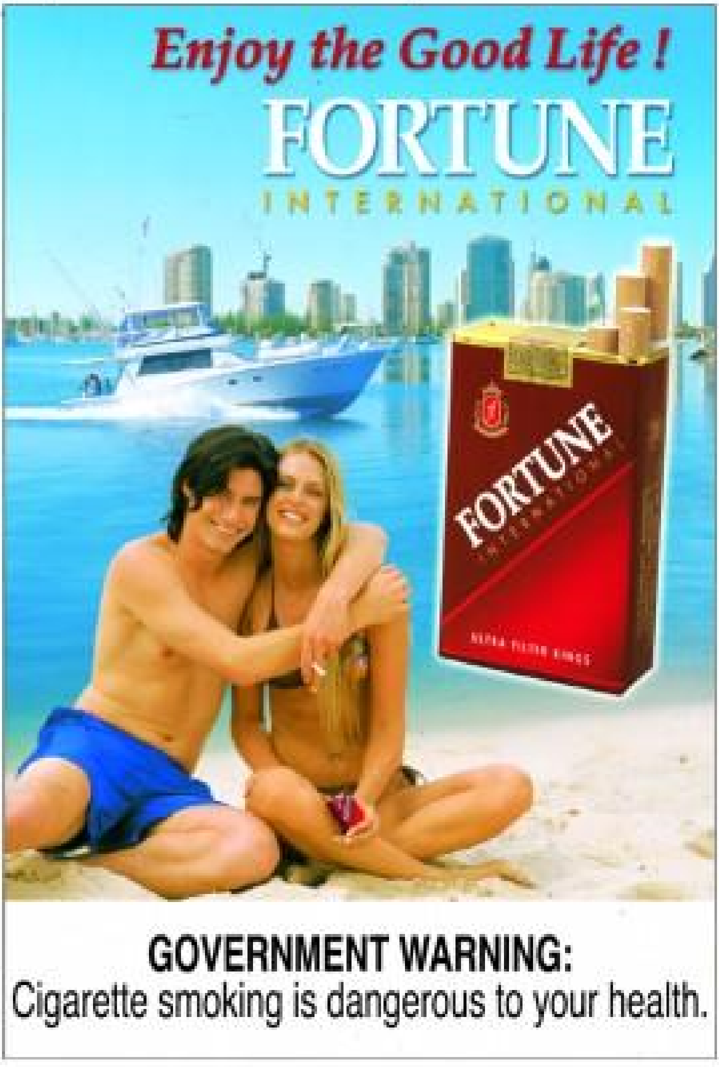
Palestine PM calls for peace talks

Afghanistan enters most critical phase

Protesters camp in on 400-yr-old tree

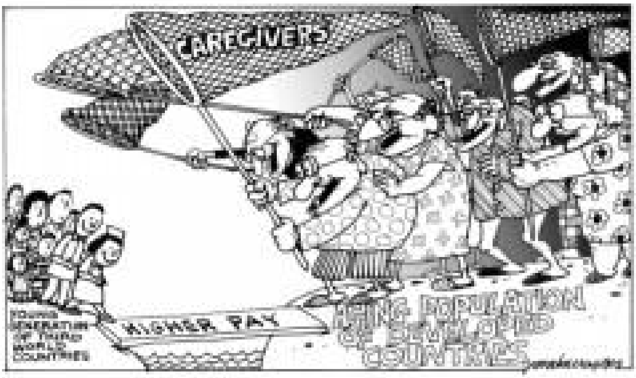
WHO steps up action against fake medicines

THE DAILY GOSPEL



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION



Turning point

EDITORIAL

THE COUNTRY pulled back from the brink of a potentially explosive constitutional crisis last Monday after the Supreme Court declared as unconstitutional the second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

The decision was the turning point in averting a plunge into chaos. It came down just as Congress, the Court and even the presidency were moving toward a three-cornered showdown over the impeachment complaint which the House of Representatives was poised to transmit to the Senate for trial.

Stop buying vehicles for public officials

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Losers all

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Joe de V's hand strenghened

POLITICAL TIDBITS



Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

Second thoughts

YOUNG BLOOD

Candy Gabaya

Old and boring, but still deadly

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

Season of despair

HUMAN FACE



Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THEY SAID

Marriage of enemies

Left behind

On HMOs and some doctors

LETTERS

Unfair portayal of HB 4110

US must temper its headlong terrorism campaign



DBP clarifies GSIS pensions

Universal acceptance of corruption

Towing questions

(Rainy) thoughts on domestic tourism

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

Across the NATION

Baguio church workers, studes protest casino

SLOW GRIND OF JUSTICE

Activists' slay a dying case, kin say



PORTRAIT OF HISTORY

ROUNDUP

Lawyers help girl

'Steam engine' in N. Luzon

New bridge in La Union

P1.7-M robbery

GenSan to tap kids in tax bid

Chavit brod declares support for FPJ

Militant youth, 2 others missing in Davao

Thousands fail to beat list-up deadline



BIKERS' DONATION

INQUIRER Southern Luzon





A race to save the soft-shelled turtles

THOUSANDS of soft-shelled turtles in [illegible], Albay, may soon disappear if villagers do not stop catching them for food.

[illegible]

Features

[illegible]

Food

[illegible]



[illegible]

Foods

[illegible]

Sanction

[illegible]

Steam-rich town revives park for eco-tourim

THE UNEXPECTED demise of the Naglagbong Park (Nag Park) in Tiwi, Albay sometime in the 1980s brought sadness to most people in the city and the province, who believed they had seen the last of their town's tourist landmarks.

[illegible]

Opportunity

[illegible]

Tribute

[illegible]



[illegible]

METROBRIEFS

Van hijacked

Cop in trouble

Water cutoff

Dela Cruz; 66



Warehouse yields more illegal drugs

Manila judge in slapping incident sued

MMDA jeepney scheme draws opposing views

Cholera cases in Caloocan, Malabon

Not surprising at all

ON TARGET



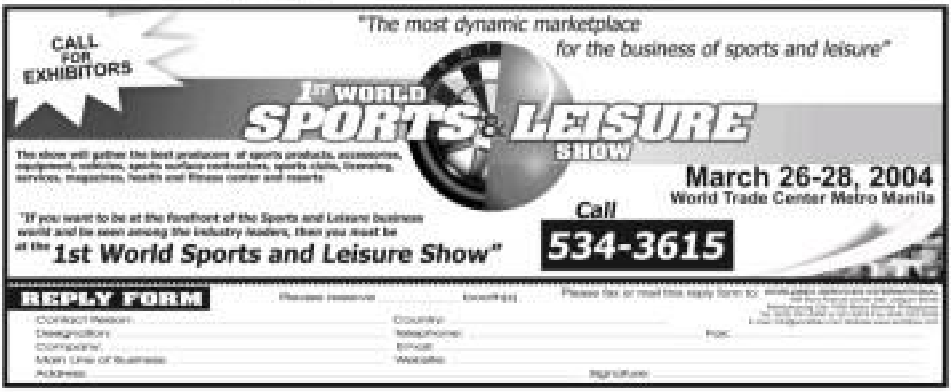
METRO

FOUR DIGIT
5 8 4 4
SUERTRES
5 6 9
MEGALOTTO 6/45
4 9 12 16 26 38

Civil society groups talk 'dirty'

DH in HK murders hunted





Roddick subdues Moya

SPORTS

Torre tops Belgium chess



TORRE: Back in form.

Sebastian next PSC commish?

Fash Liquid tackles Blu

Realtors trounce Aces



PBA telecast

Literal line

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

SPORTSWATCH

AFP booters trip rivals

Wellness Cup at Valley

Adventure race returns

Taipei, Korea bets win

Champs' cagefest on today

Compubox rates Barrera highly over Pacquiao

76ers lick Wizards



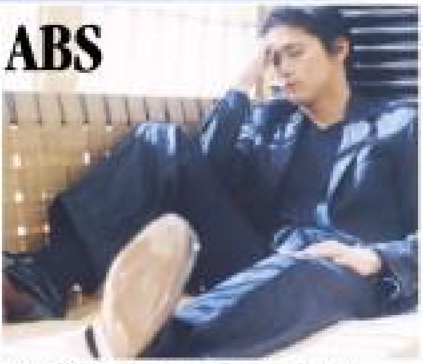
Juvic favored in Baguio Samsung golf

Ubix-Riviera pro-am stakes Toyotas for aces

ENTERTAINMENT

Robin can't leave show, says ABS

He can go on leave for a few weeks, says network



Mariah made it through the rain and she's coming

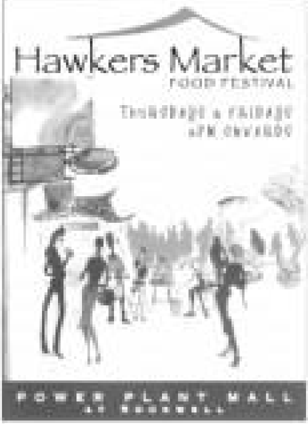


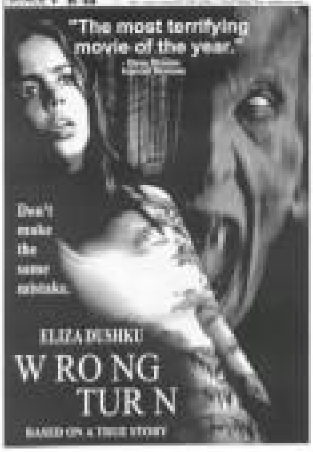
Mandy Moore's only full-length concert is at Big Dome

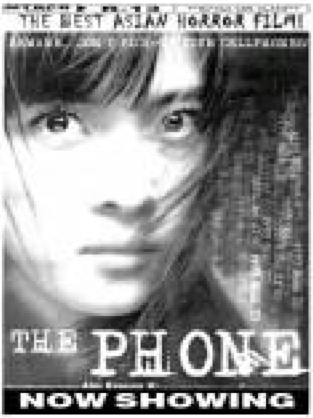


Liezel should come home with Binoe

Personal









Prepare for the coming of Limp Bizkit!

SHOW TIME



Periodic barber, scientifical way and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



Final episodes

A capella competition

Liezel should come home with Binoe

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal



Sadness and joy

BUSINESS

Intel tax row with LGU worries gov't



ROXAS

Mining firms press high court on legality dispute

BIR posts higher October collection

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET

Stocks fall for 6th straight day



PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

MWSS issues $30M in bonds

Metrobank to increase power sector investment

Message in a battle

BREAKTIME



Conrado R. Banal III

LEUNG'S REPLACEMENT

Exchange elects new president

By Doris C. Dumlao



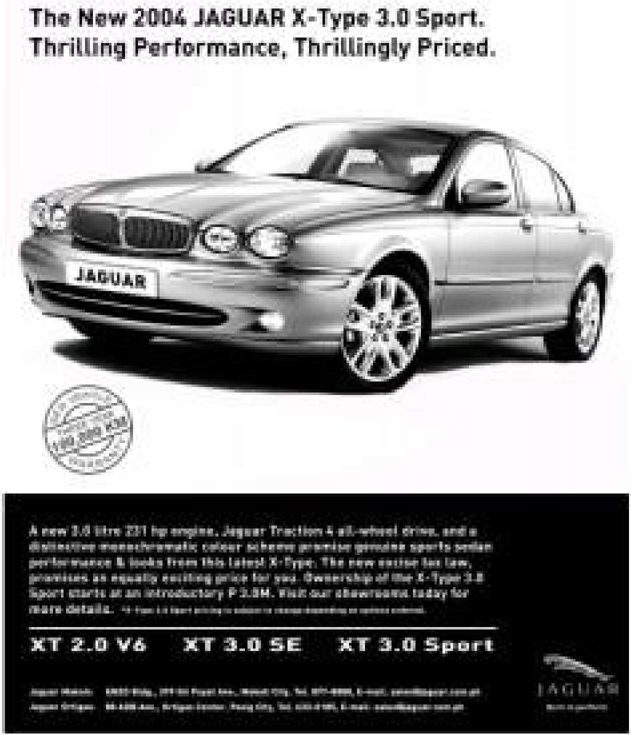
PALABRICA

SingTel, Ayala sell 5% Globe stake for ₱5.8B

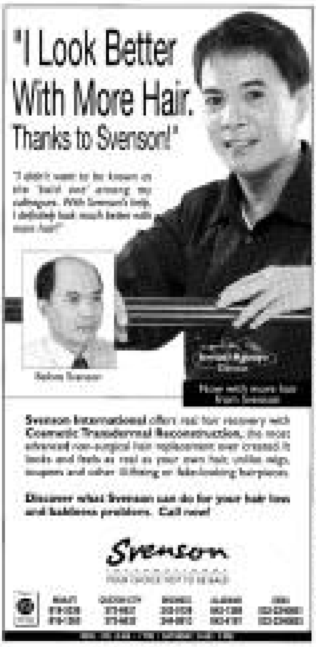
DISCLOSURES

Ayala Corp. 9-month profit hit ₱2.2B

Petron project gets tax perks







BUSINESS

NSC rehab to start in March

Maso urges gov't to sue Fraport AG

CebuPac moves to expand market







SKEWERED [illegible]

Petra's Naturally makes nutritious but fun food for kids

SPAGHETTI [illegible]



Veggies can be kiddie party fare, too

[illegible]

YOUR child is turning a year older. You are planning a birthday party but want to serve something more healthful than the usual hotdog, fried chicken and spaghetti with all the artificial food coloring, preservatives and fatty oils that go with them. But you know too well the children will be looking for these popular party fares. What do you do?

Catering

[illegible]

Wholesome kiddie menu

[illegible]



ORGANIC [illegible]

More Filipino kids becoming obese

The Consumer

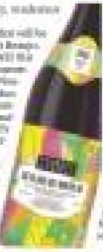




Standards for children

Comments and complaints

Welcome party for 'young' red wine





NEW SALAD DRESSING LINE



Savoring salads

SALADS aren't only the healthiest food around, they're also very flexible dishes, allowing you a thousand and one ways to prepare them.

Fiesta Taco Salad

Chef's Salad

Best Tuna Macaroni Salad





ORGANIC Baby Potato and Mushroom Salad



Veggies can be kiddie party . . .



HEALTHY kiddie munchies: popcorn, cream puff, steamed walnuts and brownies.



Food tripping in these islands



"LANZONES" fruit



Homemade chocolate treats for the holidays

By Dorothy MJ Ferreria
Contributor

CHOCOLATE candies are among the easiest to prepare because you only need a stove, a thick saucepan and a freezer to make sure you have a finished product. [illegible]

[illegible]

Mixed Nut Clusters

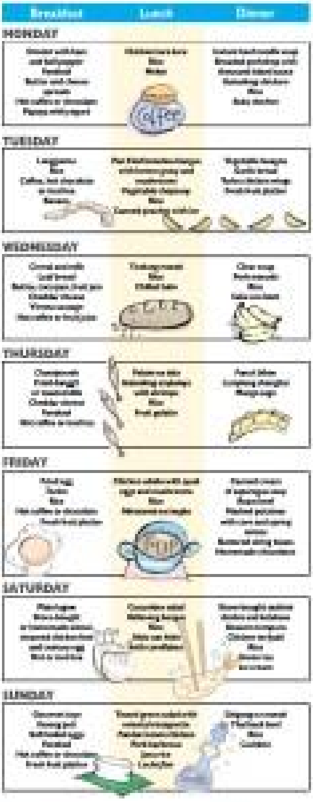
[illegible]

Basic Chocolate Molding

[illegible]

Chocolate Covered Mallows

[illegible]



Make merry and money this Christmas

[illegible]



When cravings can comfort

By Josefina P. Manalon
Contributor

WHEN we moved into our house 41 years ago, West Avenue was a carabao run, the occasional passing vehicle coming to a full stop to allow herds to pass. Today, it has become a busy restaurant row catering. Occasionally I buy take-out food to add to everyday or party meals from the dozens of restaurants there.

[illegible]

Hankerings

[illegible]

Pregnant dish

[illegible]

Ritual

[illegible]



DEBONED quail adobo marinated in soy sauce and cane vinegar in shape of small tower, stuffed with balut pate, garnished with caramelized green



GRILLED sea bass served with soy jus with steamed roulade of Chinese cabbage and bean sprouts enhanced with steamed rice flavored with ginger



STUFFED seafood rigatoni



CHILLED cylinder of smoked salmon with horseradish mousse garnished with salad bouquet in creamy mustard dressing

Novel cuisine

Text by Charles V Mood
Photos by Roger Carpio

NuVo updates its menu every three months to keep its guests coming back for new discoveries

FILIPINO diners have expectations, says NuVo executive chef Martin Brücker, and his mission is to fulfill their expectations to the utmost.

It is in understanding the locals, their attitude and behavior at the dining table in particular, that the German kitchenmaster is able to experiment with Filipino food and whip up delightful treats for the Filipino palate.

Brücker, in fact, has introduced Asian influences in the fine dining restaurant's chiefly French-Mediterranean cuisine.

Holding fresh dishes to NuVo, as regulars would attest, is in fact a regular event. The year-old resto updates its menu at least every three months, "otherwise, people come and don't have to see the menu anymore to know what they want," says Brücker.

Of course, the stiff competition in the Greenbelt location also keeps NuVo on its toes.

Exploits

Before Brücker came on board, NuVo was known for its classical cuisine courtesy of a popular American chef.

Brücker is grateful for NuVo chair Louie Tomacil's support for his own exploits in the kitchen.

"He has a lot of experience in the hospitality industry. He's been around and always likes to try new food," he says.

When Tomacil comes something he likes in his travels, he asks Brücker to come up with his own version using available ingredients.

And the chef is just too happy to oblige, admitting to a fascination for presenting usual recipes in different shapes and forms.

"Food," he notes, "is about increasing your knowledge of the preparation, and assembling different ingredients into new dishes."

He is excited every time he serves the chilled cylinder of smoked salmon with horseradish mousse and salad bouquet. It is served with a creamy mustard dressing that hints mildly of wasabi.

Another new conical-shaped dish is the tower of green asparagus stuffed with scallops and grilled tiger prawns.

And an object of intense pride is the round, lasagna-like Seafood Rigatoni Timbale, the noodles stuffed with a variety of ingredients.

For all-out Asian inspiration, there's the grilled sea bass with soy jus served in a wooden dim sum steamer. The dish comes with a steamed roulade of Chinese cabbage and bean sprouts and ginger-flavored steamed rice.

Brücker also takes a stab at a tower-like Filipino recipe with his version of the adobo,



NUVO executive chef Martin Brücker updates its offerings with eight new appetizers and salads, eight main courses and six desserts. Pictured: seafood rigatoni. The favored classics remain on the menu.



CYLINDER of tiramisu with cherry ragout

which he takes further by stuffing the deboned quail adobo with balut paté and serving it with pure caramelized [illegible].

For those who are intimidated by the idea of eating balut (aborted duck egg), Brücker's balut is "not the real thing," he stresses. "It's been processed and strained, so it's just the flavor." So far the response has been gratifying.

Of course, he has also heard comments like, "That's not how my lola makes it (adobo)," but Brücker takes it all in stride.

"Every household or restaurant has a different recipe," he reasons. (That's also why NuVo calls its Caesar salad "Our Classic Way"). The bottom line for him is, patrons love his adobo.

Conscientious

While price is never an issue to most NuVo patrons, Brücker is conscientious about giving them value for their money.

Trained in high-end Michelin-rated restaurants where people order three to four courses, the chef was bemused to learn that Filipinos delighted in being served big-portion side dishes.

NuVo's fine-dining portions, he shrugs, are just fine, and emphasizes the greater importance of not cutting corners when it comes to ingredients.

Brücker bemoans the challenge of finding the finest ingredients at good prices. But for him, despite the pressure of maintaining the consistent quality of NuVo's food, diners' satisfaction still takes precedence.

Apart from the food, the chef credits NuVo's location for the restaurant's success. It directly faces Greenbelt Park. The classy interiors, courtesy of architect Conrad Onglao and interior designer Ivy Almario, also play a major part in luring people in. The interior lighting magically changes periodically and is fascinating to watch, he says.

Though he admits it was hard to rein in some of the local staff when he first took charge (citing [illegible] for absences as an example), Brücker takes pride that NuVo doesn't change its staff every six months.

"They are regular employees, so that makes it easier for them to handle daily operations," he says.

When the smoking ban was imposed in Makati, some of their regulars, mostly the cigarette smokers, decamped to [illegible] and other places. It made a dent on business, he admits, but stresses it was only a minor setback.

At the point where smoking issues have been addressed, a bigger tent will be set up for the rainy season.

In the meantime, Brücker's kitchen as capable continues...

NuVo Restaurant & Wine Bar is at Greenbelt 2, Makati. Call 757-3698/99

E-mail: [illegible]@inquirer.com.ph



VARIATIONS of Valrhona chocolate: Blanc Valrhona chocolate mousse perfumed with Malibu rum; millefeuille of Valrhona Grand Cru Noir Manjari; and mini soufflé chocolate Valrhona Lacté with fresh baby pineapple



GRILLED goose liver wrapped in filo pastry served on top of an apple carpaccio marinated in red port wine



TOWER of green asparagus stuffed with scallops and garnished with grilled tiger prawns and served with Champagne sauce



CHILLED orange soup served with vanilla panna cotta and vanilla ice cream